

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

The Special Provisions for Caltrans construction projects require that the contractor prepare a plan to control pollutants from construction sites. The Special Provisions will specify either a Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) or a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This bulletin gives some insight into the preparation of SWPPPs.

It is important for Caltrans construction staff to understand the SWPPP preparation requirements in order to adequately review the SWPPP and enforce implementation.

In developing the SWPPP, the contractor must follow the guidelines provided in "Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook, Construction Contractors Guide and Specifications" (Handbook).

This Handbook has been designed with the detail necessary to ensure that the contractor's SWPPP will meet the requirements of the NPDES General Permit. In addition to meeting the documentation requirements, the SWPPP must be functional and flexible. Since construction is a dynamic process (site conditions change daily), the plan must give the contractor and Caltrans the ability to make changes that meet the objectives of the SWPPP—preventing pollutant discharges (significant changes must be covered in a SWPPP amendment).

Prior to preparing the SWPPP, the contractor should review Section 1 of the Handbook. This section provides a brief introduction to the regulatory requirements, as well as an easy-to-read overview describing what contractors can do to control the discharge of pollutants from jobsites. Section 1 is important because it provides a "big-picture perspective" about construction related water quality issues. This overview will prepare the contractor with the information necessary to effectively prepare a storm water pollution prevention plan.

The requirements for preparing a SWPPP are provided in Section 3 of the Handbook. This section gives the contractor detailed step-by-step instructions, as well as examples of typical text and drawings. Handbooks and model SWPPPs can be obtained from Caltrans Publications Distribution Unit, phone (916) 445-3520.

Although each section of the SWPPP serves an important purpose, perhaps the most important sections of the SWPPP are:

Section 500.2.2 - The Water Pollution Control Drawings. These drawings must show (and/or describe, as appropriate), the details of the site, including the storage areas, disturbed areas, existing vegetation, post-grading drainage patterns, and the control practices that will be used on-site.

Section 500.2.3 - The Narrative Section. This section requires that the contractor describe existing site conditions, as well as the planned methods for reducing their operational impacts upon water quality.

Section 500.3 - Erosion and Sediment Control. Included in this section are the requirements for the BMPs that will be used for erosion and sediment control, throughout the project. These BMPs may include soil stabilization, sediment control, sediment tracking, and wind erosion controls.

Section 500.4 - Non-Storm Water Management and Waste Management and Disposal. These BMPs are required year-round for applicable activities, material usage, or site conditions to reduce discharges of materials other than storm water. A quantity estimate of materials that could be discharged from the jobsite is required. A spill log shall be used on the project to document any significant non-storm water discharges.

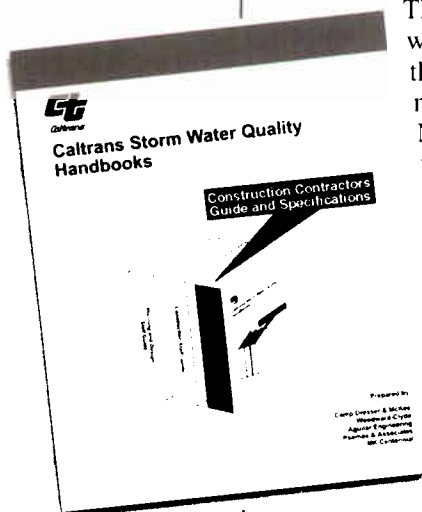
Appendix C - The BMP Working Details. This section provides detailed guidelines for the proper application, implementation, and maintenance of the various BMPs that can be used on the construction site. The applicable detail sheets should be included in the contractor's SWPPP for easy accessibility in the field.

Of course, preparing the SWPPP is only the first step. The success of the SWPPP is dependent upon the proper implementation and maintenance of BMPs in the field.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks. Questions or comments may be directed to:

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SWPPP
Preparation

